

The Virginia Baker show started in 1921. Her father was a Czech immigrant who changed the family name from Pecinka to Baker. Her mother, Hattie, was a Baltimorean of Czechoslovakian descent.

"Daddy mixed the syrup for the sodas and milkshakes and Mama cooked the chocolate for the sundaes," she said of the family store, now a carryout restaurant and liquor store protected by iron bars and bulletproof plastic. "Boy, did this neighborhood smell good!"

Miss Baker had a voice so quintessentially Baltimore that Washington disc jockeys regularly put her on the radio just to let the nation's power brokers believe everything they'd ever heard about this city.

On the sidewalks of her beloved hometown, young Virginia learned the tricks she would turn into a career.

"We played every game you can imagine out here," she said during a 1995 visit to the old store that was her home from infancy until her father died in 1954.

Miss Baker rode scooters, shot marbles, made kites out of newspapers and sticks, played tag, spun tops, and made yo-yos sing and puppets dance. She collected matchbook covers and wagered hundreds of them at a time in card games of pitch, poker and pinochle down at Sprock's Garage on Lakewood Avenue.

And when she got black eyes from roughhousing—Queenie was a bruiser, she freely admitted—the local butcher put beef on them to keep down the swelling.

As a youngster, Miss Baker became a volunteer at the old Patterson Park recreation center. After graduating from Eastern High School in 1940, she made play her work, soon becoming director of recreation for the park.

From that time, she served nine Baltimore mayors, from Howard W. Jackson to Kurt L. Schmoke. She became best known during the 15-year tenure of Mr. Schaefer, who installed her at City Hall as perhaps the only civil servant in America in charge of an office called Adventures in Fun.

Miss Baker turned City Hall Plaza into a staging area for endless contests—marbles, pogo sticks, chess, checkers, Hula-Hoops, yo-yos, roller skates, bicycles, kites and tops.

She invented the Fun Wagon, a small trailer with a basketball hoop on back and stuffed with toys. Five of them toured the city. She started the Kid Swap Shop, where children traded toys, an event copied across the nation because of Miss Baker's knack for publicity.

"She was a great old girl," Mr. Schaefer said yesterday. "She initiated all sorts of hokey things and everybody loved them. I hog-called one year. I didn't have my own frog for the jumping contest, but she gave me one. He didn't win. But Virginia always had young people around her. She made them work hard and feel good."

For six decades, her motto never changed: "A kid is still a kid."

Miss Baker lived at the Marylander Apartments from 1954 until a stroke in 1992. She did not officially retire until 1995. She resided in recent years at a Towson nursing home and is survived by several nieces and nephews.

Services will be held a 10 a.m. Saturday at Church of the Nativity, Cedarcroft and York roads.

Donations may be made to the Virginia S. Baker Recreation Memorial Fund, c/o Friends of Patterson Park, 27 S. Patterson Park Ave., Baltimore 21231.●

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT CONFERENCE REPORT

● Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, last night, the Senate passed the Workforce

Investment Act conference report, H.R. 1385. This legislation makes important reforms to our job training, adult education, and vocational rehabilitation programs.

The Workforce Investment Act is one of the most significant proposals that has passed the Senate this year. H.R. 1385 proposes a streamlined, practical, business-oriented approach to job training which empowers states with the ability to transform a current patchwork of programs into a comprehensive system.

This bill is the result of more than four years of hard work. The last Congress, under the leadership of Senator Nancy Kassebaum, spent a considerable amount of time on similar legislation. Senator Kassebaum did not act alone in championing the workforce legislation in the last Congress. Senator DEWINE, Senator KENNEDY and myself and many other members were also involved in that effort.

Senator KENNEDY and I have been working on job training legislation for over two decades. I count the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), which I co-authored along with Representative Hawkins and Senators KENNEDY, HATCH, and Quayle as a significant legislative accomplishment. Today, over twenty years later, it is clear that JTPA is not sufficient to meet the increasing demands being made on our education and training system.

The Workforce Investment Act conference report as passed by the Senate will enable states to better coordinate employment and training programs and related activities, with a special emphasis on coordinating adult education and job training initiatives. This coordination will lead to customer satisfaction—which is perhaps the most important aspect of this bill. Individuals seeking job training and adult education services will choose to enroll in high quality programs which will lead to better paying jobs. In addition, employers will also be satisfied customers because they will have the ability to hire better skilled employees.

The Workforce Investment Act is a product of many efforts. In particular, I would like to thank Senator MIKE DEWINE, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Employment and Training for his leadership in this area. He has done an outstanding job in putting this bill together and his contribution regarding the redesigning of our youth training programs will be of great benefit to our nation's disadvantaged youth. I would also like to thank Senator PAUL WELLSTONE, the Employment and Training Subcommittee's ranking member for his work on the bill.

Senator TED KENNEDY and I have been working for many years on employment and training issues. The Workforce Investment Act has been a bipartisan effort. I would like to thank Senator KENNEDY for his leadership.

Not only has this been a bipartisan effort, but it has also been bicameral. Representative BILL GOODLING, the chairman of the House Education and Workforce Committee and the chair of this conference has also been working on job training legislation for over twenty years. I commend him on his leadership and thank him for all of his hard work in completing action on H.R. 1385.

Chairman GOODLING was joined by Representative BILL CLAY, Representative BUCK MCKEON, and Representative DALE KILDEE. This bill is a product of their expertise and commitment to improving job training and adult education.

In addition, I would like to thank the staff of the Congressional Research Service: Ann Lordeman, Rick Apling, and Paul Irwin. I would also like to thank the Legislative Counsel staff: Liz King, Mark Sigurski, and Mark Synnes. Their dedication and hard work were essential in completing the Workforce Investment Act Conference Report.

In May of 1997, I held a hearing at Vermont Technical College in Randolph, Vermont. The testimony that I received at that hearing was my touchstone for the Workforce Investment Act. Witness after witness discussed the urgency for a skilled workforce. I would like to thank my home state of Vermont for serving as an inspiration for this legislation. I would especially like to thank Susan Auld, the Commissioner for Vermont's Department of Employment and Training, and Kathy Finck, the director of Vermont's Adult and Vocational Education program for their contributions to this legislation.

As I mentioned earlier, customer satisfaction, flexibility, and stronger accountability are the themes of H.R. 1385. A provision of the bill which relates to these issues is the ability of states to submit one plan to Washington for a variety of federal programs. This encourages states to coordinate their programs; also cuts through bureaucratic red tape by giving states the option to submit one plan versus several plans. Another provision which emphasizes the importance of customer satisfaction and accountability is the opportunity for states to be rewarded, through incentive grants, for exceeding their performance standards in delivering employment and training and education related services.

When this bill originally passed the Senate, vocational education was a major section of the legislation. The one disappointment I have is that we were unable to include vocational education in this conference report. However, I do hope that the House and Senate conferees will be able to bring a vocational education conference report to the Congress before the October adjournment.

The final section of the conference report is the reauthorization of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act. The rehabilitation provisions in this bill will

open up more employment opportunities to individuals with disabilities. They will also provide state vocational rehabilitation agencies and other agencies and organizations that offer employment-related assistance to individuals with disabilities with the tools they need to give appropriate, timely help to individuals with disabilities who want to work. These provisions bring us closer to a seamless system for job training and employment assistance for individuals with disabilities.

The Workforce Investment Act lays the groundwork to establish an outstanding employment and training system nationwide that will meet the economic demands of the next century. The business community and the Administration have been very helpful in this endeavor. I want to especially thank Secretary Herman and Secretary Riley and their staffs for their work and who literally worked on this legislation up to the last minute. The passage of H.R. 1385 means that this nation will have a better skilled workforce.●

BILL TUTTLE, 69, VICTIM AND OPPONENT OF SMOKELESS TOBACCO

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, a baseball star died this week. Bill Tuttle, centerfielder for the Detroit Tigers, Kansas City Athletics, and Minnesota Twins over a period of 11 years, succumbed to oral cancer after a five-year battle. Among baseball fans, Mr. Tuttle's baseball card picture, with a bulging cheek full of chewing tobacco, is well-known. Unfortunately, that ever-present wad of tobacco was his undoing. Over the past five years, it cost him part of his jaw, his cheek, a number of teeth, his taste buds, and ultimately his life.

To his credit, when Mr. Tuttle realized what spit tobacco, as he accurately called it, had begun to do to him, he devoted the last years of his life to warning other ballplayers about what might happen to them if they too use spit tobacco. But he did more than reach out to his fellow ballplayers. He spent many hours and days working to prevent young people from starting to use this addictive product.

I ask that a letter be printed in the RECORD that I received from Bill Tuttle during the debate on the tobacco bill earlier this year. It describes his firsthand experience of the ravages of spit tobacco and his efforts to educate children, as well as Major League players, about the dangers of spit tobacco use.

Spit tobacco is addictive, causes cancer and other serious illnesses, and leaves a trail of devastation among its victims and their families. It is essential that we listen to the words of Bill Tuttle and others like him, and continue to fight to prevent the use of smokeless tobacco by our Nation's kids.

The letter follows:

May 18, 1998.

THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE: My name is Bill Tuttle. I hope that some of you remember me as a former Major League Baseball player who played with the Minnesota Twins, Detroit Tigers, and Kansas City Athletics. But, I hope more of you know me as a staunch anti-spit tobacco fighter who, at this very moment, is literally fighting for his life. Little did I know when I started experimenting with spit tobacco some forty years ago at the invitation of a fellow ballplayer, that spit tobacco would become such a major part of my life and death. I chewed every day for many years, right up until the time I was diagnosed with oral cancer five years ago. I have undergone numerous operations to remove cancerous growths in my head and neck. I have endured unimaginable pain and disfigurement from the surgeries and treatments and I have been literally cut apart and patched back together. My family has suffered with me every step of the way. Life has been a living hell for several years now.

I have been blessed, however, with the opportunity to talk to others about the dangers of spit tobacco, particularly young people. I know that the temptation to try new things, especially forbidden things, can be tough for young people. In my message to the thousands of youngsters that I have talked to, I have emphasized that they just should not start using any form of tobacco. If you don't start, you'll never need to stop. But once started, tobacco use can literally addict you to a substance that stands a good chance of killing you. Even after enduring several surgeries and having half of my face cut away, I hate to admit that I still have a craving to try spit tobacco. That's how addicting spit tobacco can be.

I have had some excellent partners in the fight against spit tobacco. Joe Garagiola, Oral Health America, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Major League Baseball, the Major League Baseball Player Association, the Professional Baseball Athletic Trainers Society, and others have supported me in many ways. But my most ardent supporter and best friend is my wife Gloria. She has accompanied me on my visits to schools, community meetings, and spring training. She has become an expert on spit tobacco, particularly what it can do to destroy lives and families.

I am sorry that I can not meet you in person to talk about his matter as my physical condition just won't permit it. But I wish to implore you to become a partner in the fight against spit tobacco. So many of you have already done so much to move badly needed tobacco legislation forward that we must not stop short of the goal—that is to make tobacco products, including spit tobacco, as unavailable and unattractive to young people as possible. I urge you to take the necessary action that will address spit tobacco as aggressively as you will smoking. We need taxes that make all tobacco equally unattractive for young people. We need to monitor not just highly addicted daily users, but also experimenters, if we are to practice prevention and be able to measure progress. And we need to tell people the truth about the addictive nature of spit tobacco, including putting the nicotine content on labels. None of us wishes to see spit tobacco become the bargain basement pathway for young people into a lifetime of tobacco addiction.

On May 19, 1998, my wife Gloria and I will be honored at the Metrodome in Minneapolis as the first recipients of the Bill Tuttle Award. This recognition of our efforts to try to save American children from hazards of tobacco use is greatly appreciated. At the same time, however, this is a very sad occasion for us. We both know that my remain-

ing time in this fight and our remaining time together is limited. It would honor us greatly if you, as the distinguished elected leaders of our country, would commit to an aggressive course of action against spit tobacco. That would be a big league accomplishment and one for which you would never be forgotten.

Sincerely,

BILL TUTTLE.●

THE NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER

● Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about a national resource that is training the military leaders of today and tomorrow. It is the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California.

The commanding officer of the National Training Center, Brigadier General Dean Cash, is a soldier's soldier. He is dedicated to developing leaders, and he leads by example. General Cash is also dedicated to the soldiers' families. Despite the long hours and tough duty, General Cash makes sure none of the soldiers or officers in his command misses the birth of their child or a birthday celebration. He believes those are significant events that cannot be missed.

And General Cash wants to make sure the families are cared for. Whether its child care, shopping or support groups, the families of the soldiers assigned to Fort Irwin get the best available. The base takes an active role in the schools and also has extended its reach to at-risk children in the Los Angeles basin.

The soldiers at Fort Irwin and the National Training Center are professionals. They present the greatest challenge for units training at the center. This is their mission, and they do it well.

I believe, Mr. President, that the reason our forces were successful against Saddam Hussein in Operation Desert Storm was the training they received at NTC. They were in an environment very similar to conditions in the Middle East. They were fighting against forces simulating the style of the former Soviet bloc. And they were fighting against tanks, artillery and infantry units with a "home field" advantage. The permanent opposition force at NTC knows every rock, every hill and every ravine. That is a tremendous advantage, and really tests the leadership skills of the training forces.

As we see the downsizing of our active Army force, we must have a National Guard and Reserve component acting as an integral part of our military if we have a significant crisis anywhere in the world that we have to deal with. That is why, Mr. President, I am so pleased that the Idaho Snake River Brigade is able to train at NTC. We need to make sure they're ready if called upon.

The facilities at NTC are, to say the least, very impressive. Using the latest state-of-the-art computer, laser and satellite technology, the instructors and observers at NTC can tell, in real